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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/646,384	08/21/2003	Ricky W. Purcell	1443.049US1	9728

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EXAMINER

GIBSON, ROY DEAN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3739

DATE MAILED: 11/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/646,384

Applicant(s)

PURCELL, RICKY W.

Examiner

Roy D. Gibson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/15/2005 (See Interview Summary).
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,6,8-16,18,22 and 25-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 16,18,22 and 25-27 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,6 and 8-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

- 4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Formal Matters

This Office action removes the previous finality of this case mailed on 6/9/2005 and voids the Advisory Action mailed on 11/10/2005. This is being done because, as the attorney of record noted in a telecom with the examiner on 11/15/2005, that claims 25-27 were not addressed in these actions. This Action restarts the clock for response as stated below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ikeda et al. (4,925,743) who disclose a heat patch comprising:
a reflective layer of a metal foil or a metallized film (aluminum and col. 3, lines 1-8) on a retaining means that inherently reflects IR energy emitted by the body (typically between 3 and 50 microns) back into the body; and

a heat source that produces heat by oxidation of a composition of a reaction promoter and salt, etc. (exothermic reaction) and references a typical "chemical body warmer" (col. 1, lines 14-33) comprising powder of an easily oxidizable metal such as iron and an oxidizing agent initiated by the passing of air (oxygen) through a gas-permeable layer of the patch (see col. 2, line 24-col. 3, line 39 and col. 4, lines 10-46).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, 5-6 and 8-15 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burkett et al. (5,918,590) in view of Ikeda et al. (4,925,743).

Burkett et al. disclose a heat patch comprising a heat source composition of an iron power and water which is capable of generating heat when a gas (air) is supplied to the heating composition through a gas-permeable layer that forms an enclosure for the heating composition, wherein the composition generates heat in a range of 38-44 degrees C (col. 1, lines 49-63, col. 2, line 11-col. 3, line 17, col. 4, lines 20-27, col. 6, lines 38-67 and col. 7, line 40-col. 8, line 47). But, Burkett et al. lack the specific disclosure of a reflective layer that reflects infrared energy emitted by the patient's body and that is attached to the heat source. However, Ikeda et al. disclose or teach a heating device with an internal heating composition that comprises a reflective layer (metal coated layer # 3) made of a aluminum-coated plastic film attached to the enclosing layer (2) wherein the reflective layer acts to reflect radiant heat in the 3-50 micron wavelength (Figures 1 and 5, col. 2, line 24-col. 3, line 27). Therefore, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to

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modify the device of Burkett et al., as taught by Ikeda et al. to provide a reflecting layer that provides the advantage of reflecting infrared wavelengths to minimize the loss of radiation to the enclosure.

Further to claims 8-15, Burkett et al. disclose a heat patch made from heat cells into a patch or wrap wherein the enclosing layer is gas-permeable, the heating composition being capable of generating heat when a gas is received through the gas-permeable layer (col. 7, lines 40-46 and note the gas-permeable layer may be formed by a gas-impermeable layer with holes formed therein).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 16, 18, 22 and 25-27 are allowed.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any


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extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Roy D. Gibson whose telephone number is 571-272-4767. The examiner can normally be reached on Tu-Th, 7:30 am-4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda Dvorak can be reached on 571-272-4764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Roy D. Gibson
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3739

November 16, 2005